



File Code: 1570

Date: September 30, 2010

Paul Turcke
950 W. Bannock Street, Suite 520
Boise, ID 83702

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Dear Mr. Turcke

On August 13, 2010, you filed a notice of appeal on the Gunnison National Forest Travel Management Plan decision. Your appeal was timely, filed pursuant to 36 CFR 215, and challenged Forest Supervisor Charlie Richmond's decision on various aspects of the Plan. Your appeal was assigned number 10-02-09-0061 for tracking purposes.

I have weighed the recommendation from the Appeal Reviewing Officer (ARO) and incorporated it into this decision. A copy of the ARO's recommendation is enclosed. This letter constitutes my decision on your appeal including the specific relief requested.

Action Appealed

The Gunnison National Forest signed a decision to improve travel management on National Forest System lands within the Gunnison and Paonia Ranger Districts of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests on June 28th, 2010. This decision was needed to design a sustainable transportation system that provides:

- Public and management access;
- Recreational opportunities;
- Natural and cultural resource protection;
- Public safety; and
- Agency management success.

Your letter expressed your concern that the analysis did not follow proper procedures or provide rationale for restriction of motorized access. You note a demand for motorized and mechanized recreational opportunities and included some route-specific comments.



Appeal Reviewing Officer's Findings and Recommendation

Your appeal was formally reviewed by a US Forest Service team, led by ARO Bill Dunkelberger. This team provided an objective review and was not involved in the development, analysis or decision of the Gunnison Travel Management Plan. The team evaluated your appeal and the project record, and provided a recommendation to me. The ARO found that your appeal contained multiple issues which are summarized in the enclosed recommendation letter. He recommends the Forest Supervisor's decision be affirmed, finding no violation of law, regulation, or policy.

Decision

After reviewing the appeal record, I agree with ARO Dunkelberger's analysis as presented in the enclosed recommendation letter. I believe the appeal record supports these conclusions that there was no evidence of a violation of law, regulation, or policy associated with the issues raised. I affirm Forest Supervisor Charlie Richmond's decision in whole, denying your request for relief. This decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture (36 CFR 215.18(c)).

Sincerely,

/s/ Maribeth Gustafson
MARIBETH GUSTAFSON
Deputy Regional Forester,
Operations

cc: Charles S Richmond
Bill Dunkelberger
Trey C Schillie